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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: T. Sauter Attorney Docket No. KTW011889
Application No.: 09/145,381 Group Art Unit: 3619
Filed: September 1, 1998 Examiner: D. Herron II
Title: VIBRATION DAMPENING SKATE FRAME

RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101

April 10, 2000

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 28.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 7, 14, and 15, as follows:

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1. (Amended) A skate frame for an in-line skate, the skate having a shoe portion and a plurality of wheels capable of traversing a surface, the skate frame comprising:

(a) an elongate first structural member having first and second sidewalls depending downwardly from a first upper surface, the lower ends of the sidewalls being spaced to receive the wheels therebetween; and

(b) flexible vibration dampening means integrally formed with the sidewalls of the first structural member for absorbing at least a portion of vibrational energy transmitted from the surface to the shoe portion when the skate traverses the surface.

2. (Amended) The skate frame of Claim 1, wherein the flexible vibration dampening means comprises a contoured portion of each of the first and second sidewalls of the first structural member, the contoured portion having a predetermined cross sectional shape to permit the sidewalls to flex, thereby absorbing at least a portion of the vibrational energy associated with traversing the surface.